TAMIL TIMES

Vol 1 No. 6 * 40 Pence * March 1982

GOVT. DEFIES ICJ & GOES S.AFRICA WAY

The Sri Lankan government recently rushed through parliament legislation enabling detention of persons for a period of eighteen months without a court order. Nor can such detention be challenged in any court of law.

The Supreme Court of the country had recently declared illegal the detention and custody by the army of a youth named S. Murugiah and directed that he be transferred to custody in a normal remand prison and to charge him if he had committed any offence. This order of the Supreme Court had the effect of rendering the detention of several others youths presently in military custody illegal.

The present United National Party (UNP) government quickly moved in an effort to defeat the court order by introducing the Prevention of Terrorism (Special Provisions) Bill in Parliament. This Bill empowered the Minister of Justice to order the detention of persons suspected of being terrorists for a period of eighteen months at one time without a court order. The persons subject to such orders may be detained in any place at the discretion of the Minister including under military custody. The properiety or leagality of detentions can not be challenged or questioned in any court.

The parliamentary opposition voted against the Bill comparing the legislation to the Terrorism Act in South Africa. Readers will recall that the International Commission of Jurists condemned the Sri Lankan government, in an 88 page report released a few months ago, of serious violations of the obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Even without the present amendments, the ICJ identified the Sri Lankan Anti-Terrorism Act as one resembling the South African Terrorism Act, providing for prolonged periods of administrative detention.

The Bill, before it was passed, was challenged in the Sri Lanka Supreme Court as unconstitutional. The Supreme Court held that certain articles in the Bill needed two-thirds majority and it be put to a referendum before the people as it held that one article in the Bill was inconsistent with the Constitution.

Inspite of the verdict of the Supreme Court, the government proceeded with the Bill which was passed with the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), the Sri Lanka Freedom Party and the Communist Party MPs voting against the Bill.

During the debate, Mr. M.Sivasithamparam, the leader of the TULF pointed out that the only other country which had similar legislation was South Africa and said, "You cannot call it civilised".

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Hayward Gallery Art Exposition "In The Image Of Man" Recreates Indian History

INDRA: Eastern Ganga Period, 11th century. Bhubaneshwar, Orissa State Museum. One of the exhibits at the Hayward Gallery "In The Image of Man" exposition from March 25 to June 13, 1982.

FESTIVAL OF INDIA

The Festival of India opened on March 22nd at London. The Festival of India started with an inaugural concert at the Royal Festival Hall on March 22 in the presence of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, and the two co-patrons of the Festival, Mrs. Thatcher and Gandhi. M.S. Subbulakshmi, the celebrated Carnatic musician, sang in the first half of the programme and the sitar virtuoso, Ravi Shankar, and conductor Zubin Mehta, with the London Philharmonic Orchestra dominated the second session.

Three other engagements connected with the Festival of India are at the Hayward Gallery, where the exhibition "In the Image of Man" unrolls 3000 years of India's

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Book Review

"ORU KODAIVIDUMURAI" (A Summer Vacation) Price: £2.50.

by Rajeswary Balasubramaniam

This Tamil novel revolves around the life of a character who typifies the outlook of many Tamils who went to Britain in the sixties and seventies. Typical of the middle class Tamil intellectual, lacking the courage to stand up to his caste conscious father, Paranthaman abandons his University love, Karthiga and leaves for Britain.

In England, Paranthaman enters into a relationship with Marion, which leads to their marriage without much ceremony at a Registar's office. Paranthaman's father disowns him, but quite happily continues to accept his regular financial contribution. Preocupied with his job and family, Paranthaman graduallly allows himself to be cut-off from his people, his country and culture oblivious to the social and political developments around him.

After nearly ten years, Paranthaman goes to Sri Lanka on a summer vacation leaving his wife and daughter, Meera in London. He re-establishes contact with his family. The news that his old love, Karthiga, had been a rape victim during communal violence in 1977 shakes him deeply.

The same social issues which he failed to come to grips with and made him escape to Britain were unfolding within his family again - only in a more accute way in the context of the Tamils being oppressed as a minority. The relationship between social issues and politics should have become glaringly more obvious now. But Paranthaman learns nothing from his past. He prescribes the same old escapist solution to his sister, Banumathy and her lover Sabesan, to go to the land of rehope and glore" -Britain.

Paranthaman becomes more and more preoccupied with the inevitable problems of Banumathy and Sabesan and their stay in London. He feels guilty for the fate that has befallen Karthiga. He neglects the emotional needs of Marion and the marriage ends up in divorce.

The main characters in the novel purport to portray the reality among Ceylon Tamils living abroad and also the inter-action of the social and political reality in Sri Lanka. Rajeswary, the author, deserves congratulation for successfully situating these characters in the setting of today's political and social reality. She has courageously exposed many of the prevailing myths and assumptions - all in the name of either Tamil Tradition and culture or national liberation. The political turmoil in Sri Lanka resulting from the oppression of the Tamils as a nation has been successfully brought out. Failure to indicate, perhaps through another character, the way forward for the liberation of the Tamils from oppression would appear to be an omission. Recognition could have been given through such a character to the existence of groups of Tamils with fresh, healthy and possitive ideas in relation to the question of liberation from oppression. Perhaps the author believed that the reality of the situation

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SUICIDAL WAR HELPS SECURITY FORCES

The government of Sri Lanka and its security forces would appear to have achieved a major breakthrough in apprehending several youths, who are said to have been connected with an organisation labelled 'Liberation Tigers'. This organisation, comprising not more than a couple of hundred Tamil youths, was reported to have engaged in spectacular armed attacks on the security forces and daring bank raids in the course of which they inflicted severe casualties and got away with several millions of rupees.

The attacks and raids by these youth were organised and executed with such extra-ordinary skill and clinical precision during the last three to four years, that the security forces miserably failed to apprehend the real persons involved or prevent their recurrence. In sheer exasperation, the security forces frequently took revenge by unleashing a reign of terror upon the ordinary and defenceless Tamil speaking people who were totally unconnected with such attacks or raids.

However, the :Tigers' themselves would appear to have presented the security forces with an unexpected opportunity. The factional infighting which has developed and continued for some time among the 'Tigers' could no longer contained and confined under the surface. The attacks and raids which apparantly were earlier executed by a united and cohesive group against what they claimed to be "targets of oppression" in the course a liberation struggle took a new and disturbing character. When the divisions led to a break of the group into different factions, one faction mounted an attack or raided a bank for the sole purpose of displaying its strength, authority and superiority over the other faction and vice versa.

These adventures inevitably led to the security forces closing in and effecting some arrests. One faction started accusing the other of betrayal.

Sri Lanka police are not noted for their civilised treatment of detainees of any kind. When they arrest suspected "terrorists", particularly suspected of having been engaged in attacks on the security forces, one need not have much imagination to conclude that they are subjected to torture and information is obtained from those arrested who buckle under torture.

Worse was to happen. Members of one faction began to physically attack members of the other, and the other retaliated in course of which a youth reported to be a leading member of one faction, Prabakaran, was gunned down. This was the signal for an open leaflet warfare between the factions - claims and counter-claims were made; names which had remained secret until then were openly mentioned. "Targets of oppression" took second place and a suicidal war broke out.

The security forces, which had been previously bruised and battered and very often beaten in the course of several encounters in the past, had been waiting in the wings baffled and bewildered by the audacious nature of the attacks and the remarkable ease with which the attackers escaped.

Now the time had arrived for which they had waited so long. They took advantage of the situation which they never bargained for and presented to them on a silver plate.

TIGER STORY

"In passing by the side of Mount Thai, Confucius came on a woman who was weeping bitterly by a grave. The Master pressed forward and drove quickly to her; then he sent Tze-lu to question her. "Your wailing", said he, "is that of one who has suffered sorrow on sorrow". She replied, "that is so. Once my husband's father was killed here by a tiger. My husband was also killed, and now my son has died in the same way." The Master said, "why do you not leave the place?" The answer was, "there is no oppressive government here." The Master then said, "Remember this, my children: oppressive government is more terrible than tigers."

(Quoted by Betrand Russell in his book titled "Power")

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Jaffna Medical Faculty Opened With One Third Space

The new Medical Faculty building at Thinnevely, Jaffna Sri Lanka was formally declared opened recently.

The entire building, a three-storeyed complex was targeted to be handed over by 1980. Today, two years later, only the ground floor is being taken over from the contractors by the University.

When the Medical Faculty, Jaffna, was set up in 1978, for want of better accommodation, it was housed in the building put up by the previous regime for the Ayurvedic College at Kaithady. A completed medical faculty building was promised by the Administration by May 1980.

The ground floor originally intended to house only the Dean's Office and the departments of Anatomy and Biochemistry is now going to crowd in eight departments altogether.

The faculty is forced to take up this option or otherwise postpone its programme till the building is finished.

While blaming the administration and the contractors for the delay in handing over the building, students complain that much foreign aid and other funds are channelled to Ruhuna Medical College which is only an affiliate to the University of Peradeniya, as against the Jaffna Medical Faculty, a member of the University of Jaffna with full-fledged University status.

Driver Returning After Work Shot Dead By Army

Kanthiah Navaratnam was a car driver by occupation. On 20th February, after a day's normal work, he left his motor car at his employer's house and was returning home on a bicycle at about 10.30 p.m. He was cycling along Vasavilan Road, Jaffna in Sri Lanka towards his home in the village of Paththaimeni. He had promised his employer to return the following morning to drive the car on a pilgrimage to Ketheeswaram Hindu Temple to attend the religious ceremony connected with 'Sivarathri', an annual religious occasion. But he did not live to keep his promise with his employer.

Kanthiah Navaratnam was shot dead by the army on his way home.

At an inquest held by the local Magistrate, Mr. C.V. Wigneswaran, an army Lieutenant named De Saram giving evidence said that he and two other army privates were on routine patrol duty on the day in question, and as they were driving, heard a noise as if someone had shot in their direction. Therefore he ordered the privates to fire in return. One person was later found to have died as a result of the army fire. The army personnel had later made an entry at the Jaffna Police Station to this effect.

Medical evidence indicates that the deceased had been hit by two shots, one cartridge entering the body from the back and piercing in the direction of the chest and the other entering from the rear of his thigh. This suggests that the victim was shot by the army from behind.

The deceased, at the time he was shot dead, is believed to have had in his possession Rs. 4000, and this money had been given to him for the purpose of redeeming some jewellery which had been pawned. This money and the bicycle on which he was proceeding home have gone unaccountably missing!

The shepherd drives the wolf from the sheep's throat, for which the sheep thanks the shepherd as his liberator, while the wolf denounces him for the same act, as the destroyer of liberty, especially if the sheep was a black one.
ABRAHAM LINCOLN

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS COMPENSATION

The Special Committee appointed to assess the damage caused by the Security forces in Jaffna during May-June last year, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Lionel Fernando, has submitted its report to the Sri Lankan President.

It is reliably understood that the report recommends compensation to be paid to the Jaffna Municipal Council for the Jaffna Public Library and the Market which were burnt down by the security forces in the course of their rampage.

Compensation has also been recommended to the Jaffna MP, Mr. V.Yogeswaran, whose house was also set alight by the police. The others who are to receive compensation include the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) for their party headquarters, the Eelanadu Press and other owners of business establishments whose property also was damaged by arson.

The Compensation Committee was comprised of Mr. Lionel Fernando (Chairman), Mr. Sidney de Zoysa, Mr. M. Nadarajah, Mr. Lloyd Peiris (Secretary) and Mr. Ganesh (Assistant Secretary).

It is believed that, of the 369 applications made for compensation, only four were rejected. Judging from past experience, this Committee has set about its task with a remarkable degree of fairness and expedition. The Committee took only three full months and 8 days to submit its report.

It is learnt that the Committee's terms of reference, which were previously limited to the boundaries of the city of Jaffna, are to be extended to include other areas like Chunnakam and Kankesanhurai areas where extensive damage was caused by the security forces during May-June last year.

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CEYLON TAMILS

REVIVAL OF SOVEREIGNTY

What is the present legal status of the Ceylon Tamils? In whom is the sovereignty of the Ceylon Tamils now vested? Are the Ceylon Tamils a minority community in one Country? Is the Ceylon Tamils problem an internal problem?

These are some of the questions that are being discussed not only by the Ceylon Tamils but also by every freedom loving country.

To throw some light on this question I set out below an extract from the judgment of the Trial-at-Bar No. 1 of 1976 in the case of the "Republic of Sri Lanka - vs - Appapillai Amirthalingam".

"Once there is a break in legal continuity the sovereignties of the inhabitants of the Island until then under eclipse so to speak, appear once again. Hence the sovereignty of the Tamil Nation which was ethnically, geographically and linguistically separately identifiable and distinct revived"

"Historically the territory called Jaffna Patam that belonged to the Tamil Nation lay in the northern and eastern portions of Ceylon from the limits of Puttalam and Mannar to the Kumbukkan Oya".

"Therefore if an autochthonous constitution is to be promulgated the consensus of the majority of the Tamil Nation should be unequivocably obtained".

"In fact the Tamil Members showed their repudiation of the Constitution in a symbolic way when they made a bonfire of it by way of a Public demonstration".

"Autochthony cannot be established by a mere counting of heads. The question is 'does the majority of the Tamil Nation accept the new Constitution?' That should have been ascertained by a referendum or plebiscite, but this was not done".

"As the Constitution had no legal continuity with the past, and as the claims that it is autochthonous were also not valid, the Constitution is illegal and the courts set up under it are not valid".

The above is a brief resume of the submissions and arguments advanced by the late M. Tiruchelvam Q.C. on behalf of the defence in that case and referred to in the said judgment.

Let us analyse further this argument and see to what extent this is correct.

Prior to the arrival of the Portuguese there were three major Kingdoms in Ceylon, viz. Kotte, Kandy and Jaffna.

The sovereignties of the inhabitants of these three major Kingdoms were vested in the respective King of each Kingdom.

In the year 1597 AD the Emperor of Kotte, Dam Jodo Paria Pandar, who conceived such an affection for the Portuguese left for Portugal and thereafter bequeathed his Kingdom to the King of Portugal (see CEILAO by Rubeiro pages 90 and 91). On his death the sovereignty of the King of Kotte passed on to the Portuguese.

R. Balasubramaniam
Attorney-at-Law;
Secretary, Bar Association
Jaffna Branch, Sri Lanka

At that time the Kingdom of Jaffna Patam had its own native King (see Ceilao by Rubeiro pages 90 and 91). The boundaries of Jaffna Patam are given in the "CLEGHORN'S MINUTES"

"2d. Jaffna Patam whose courts of Justice exercised jurisdiction in the northern and eastern part of the Island from the limits of Puttalam and Mannar to the river Koomane or Koombukkan" (see "CLEGHORN'S MINUTES" in Ceylon Almanac and Annual Register 1855-Appendix pages 3,4 and 5.)

The Kingdom of Jaffna held on upto 1619 AD and with the fall of Jaffna the sovereignty of the Tamils which was vested in the King of Jaffna passed on to the Portuguese.

These two sovereignties later passed on to the Dutch and then to the British while the sovereignty of the people of Kandy which was vested in the King of Kandy also passed on to the British in 1815.

Though the British had taken over the entire Island these three areas were administered separately upto 1833 till these three areas were amalgamated on the recommendation of the Colebrooke Commission.

When independance was granted to Ceylon, the Ceylon Independence Act of 1947 provided only for the grant of an Order-in-Council. The Ceylon Constitution Order-in-Council became effective with effect from 4th February, 1948. This Order-in-Council did not empower the Ceylon Parliament to alter the Constitution completely but only provided for amendments to provisions of the Constitution without in any way contravening Section 29(2) of the Constitution.

But, in the case of India, the India Independence Act empowered the Constituent Assembly that existed at that time to draft and adopt a Constitution for the whole of India.

Therefore to enact a new Constitution in 1970 Mrs. Srimavo Bandaranayake, the then Prime Minister, moved a resolution at the Constituent Assembly on the 19th day of July, 1970 to break the legal continuity with the British Parliament and further resolved to declare and proclaim "Sri Lanka to be a free sovereign and independent Republic ..... deriving its authority from the people of Sri Lanka and not from the power and authority assumed and exercised by the United Kingdom in the grant of the present Constitution of Ceylon nor from the said Constitution". (Vide proceedings of the Hansard of 19.7.1970).

With the break in the legal continuity the sovereignties of the inhabitants of the Island, namely, people of Kandy, Kotte and Jaffna, revived to the respective people. Therefore in the absence of the legal continuity or the consent of the Tamil Nation the Constitution enacted is not valid and binding on the Tamil Nation.

With the revival of the sovereignties the Tamils as well as the Kandyans were entitled to exercise their sovereignties and enact and adopt a Constitution for each of them. But the Kandyans have consented to amalgamate and have one Constitution even though they were entitled to function as a separate State. But the Tamils have up to date not consented to the present Constitution and are therefore entitled to exercise the sovereignty which is already vested in them and be a free distinct separate State.

In a technical sense the Tamils are against the forced amalgamation of two States and their decision to exercise the sovereignty cannot be said to be an attempt to divide the country. In other words Ceylon is an Island with two States viz. (Tamil Eelam and Sri Lanka).

The Tamils of Ceylon are therefore entitled to decide to remain as a separate State (having been conquerred only by the Portuguese, Dutch and British and their sovereignty having revived) or federate with the Sinhala State or States. What the decision should be has to be left to the free will of the Ceylon Tamils.

Nothing is ever settled until it is settled right .
Rudyard Kipling.

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ARMY ATTACK ON TAMIL WORKERS

Appeals from religious groups and ladies clubs to stop army excesses in Jaffna Sri Lanka have always been answered with soothing assurances from the Army High Command. But these remain mere verbal assurances. Often innocent members of the public are the targets of assault and harassment by the forces. Jaffna was rudely reminded of this on the night of January 25, when more than a hundred workers, supervisors and engineers were brutally assaulted by the army when working on their night shift at the Kankesanthurai Cement Factory Third Stage Worksite.

The incident is alleged to have started with the Security Guards assaulting some workers who were at dinner in the canteen, on the pretext of an inquiry. Workers say that they have all along noted with uneasiness, the extra-friendly relationship between the Security Guards who were all Sinhala and the army. They also state that all had not been too happy between the workers and the Security Guards.

The particular incident seems to have been sparked off by arrival of a group of workers from the Pavatkulam quarry on 'punishment' transfers. The group comprised both Sinhala and Tamil workers who had started their quarrels in Pavatkulam itself. These workers were thrown together. Workers report that on the night of the incident the Security Guards on the pretext of an inquiry had intervened on behalf of the Sinhala workers from Pavatkulam and had severely assaulted the Tamil workers. The Tamil workers retaliated and resorted to throwing stones at the office of the Security Guards. This apparently took place at around 8-45 p.m.

A little after nine, army personnel in four trucks are alleged to have appeared on the scene and had surrounded the worksite allowing no one to escape. At this point the lights went off completely and the place was immersed in darkness. The workers and the staff who had gathered around the scene of the clash were asked to kneel down with their hands up when assaulted.

Workers also allege that they were individually questioned whether they were Sinhala or Tamil and that Sinhala personnel escaped assault by calling out, "I am Sinhala". Those who ran away to hide when they saw the army approaching and those workers who continued to work peacefully in far away corners of the worksite seem not to have been spared either. "They hunted us like rabbits", one worker said, still shuddering from the experience.

The personnel in charge of Stores, even the nurse's assistants in the Medical Centre seem to have been attacked. The canteen was broken into. An electrician who turned around to see his watch yanked off from behind - caught it in the eye - and is in hospital with a serious eye injury.

The rampage is stated to have lasted till about 12 midnight. The question is being asked: How did the Management allow the conflict among the workers to precipitate to such an intensity? No one seems to know why the army was called in or who called them in. Anyhow the fact that the army was called on the scene within a quarter of an hour of the clash seems very suspicious to workers and staff at the Third Stage Worksite.

(Saturday Review)

APPOINTMENTS

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LETTERS

ALIVE & KICKING

Tamil Times emerged in the new year alive and kicking. It is now only five months old. Readers all over the world who had received the first three issues would not have failed to appreciate not only the timeliness of its appearance but also the usefulness of its purpose. The response received so far, I am told, indicates that this paper meets a long felt need. It provides a continuous medium for the dissemination of news and views concerning the Tamils of Sri Lanka and is a link that connects them, scattered all over the globe in groups of varying numbers.

The potentialities of this paper are therefore immense. Equally immense are the complexities of running such a venture. An undertaking such as this cannot grow to its full stature nor widen its scope and expand its usefulness unless it attracts maximum support from readers and well-wishers in tangible terms.

The least that Tamils could do to sustain this effort is to increase manifold the established readership by the simple expedient of increased subscriptions and wherever possible by increased advertisements. No paper can exist without this arterial supply. The measure of support this venture receives from the Tamils and well-wishers would be a measure of their appreciation of its usefulness which in turn would ensure the paper's continued appearance.

Surrey A.R.A.

ADMIRABLE PUBLICATION

May I congratulate you on the continued publication of the Tamil Times. This paper, I believe, will represent and speak for the Tamils not only in U.K., but also for those who live in USA, Canada, Australia and various other parts of the world, who are interested in the affairs of Tamils. Having read the three issues I feel that the Tamil Times is an admirable publication which will add a very worthwhile new dimension to the press coverage of news items of interest not only to Tamils but also to non-Tamils. However, I wish to point out that most of the news seems to come from Sri Lanka and there is a very limited coverage from other parts of South East Asia, where there is a substantial population of Tamil speaking people. May I also suggest that it would be very much appreciated if the paper carried articles of interest in medicine and science for the layman. On the whole, however, I am sure, large numbers of readers of Tamil Times will join me in wishing you every success and I hope you will carry on with the same enthusiasm and encouragement to produce this excellent publication for many more years to come.

As Secretary of the League of Friends of the University of Jaffna (LOFUJ) I also wish to take thus opportunity to appeal to the readers of TAMIL TIMES to join the 'League' and contribute towards the fund, donating books and other educational material for raising the standard of education at the university of Jaffna - Sri Lanka. It is the intention of the 'League' to help make the University of Jaffna a seat of higher education comparable to that of any other similar seat of learning in the Western World. In this context, I am glad to report that the 'League' will be sending the next shipment of books very soon. Any donations and contributions, however small, will be very much appreciated.

S. Thanabalasingham
M.Sc., Ph.D.
Secretary, LOFUJ,
31 Melrose Gardens, Edgware, Middx.

Culture, Cocktails And Chewing Chicken Legs!

Some thoughts occurred to me on seeing the announcement of the World Tamil Eelam Convention in your last issue. What represents the core of our heritage and what makes us one people? Some of us live in prosperity amidst communities which will not accept us in a manner in which we wish to be accepted and will not recognise our uniqueness. In such circumstances the mutual society obtaining from holding conventions, celebrating festivals and talking some home politics does fill a deeply felt void.

There are others like the young man I know who works as a mechanic in Germany. His parents do not want him to come home because they fear for his safety. He was once arrested and detained at home for painting a slogan. He is from an extremely intelligent family. But will not study on principle because many of his age and younger were deprived of higher education by standardisation, and refuses to do so until the root cause is sorted out. He sends his money home instead and is being harassed by German authorities.

Another is a student in the U.S. living with his wife and child on a grant of $450 a month and managing to send money to both his and his wife's people without complaining.

Another is a lady representative of several of her generation. She was amongst the few women of her time to get a London First. She has sons working abroad. But will not have a car on principle. Just as her mother did she would not like to use electricity when there is firewood about. It would be normal for her to walk two miles to church on a Sunday.

The ability to bear straitened circumstances with honour and dignity are amongst the spiritual resources of the women of that generation. This impression was forced upon me when I met Mrs Kanagasundaram, the mother of the late Dr. Charles Kanagasundaram.

Important as language and culture may be, it is impressions such as these that ultimately determine my loyalty and sense of identity with my people. One is not likely to sentimentalise over the thought of prosperous looking overseas Tamils sipping cocktails and chewing legs of chicken. Those of us living overseas stand in danger of losing not only our roots, but also our resources. Our women are the guardians of these. If they lose these we are finished as a people.

This is the dilemma facing those of us living overseas.

M.R.R. Hoole.

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THE ASIAN PERSPECTIVE

"It may appear in some instances that some individuals have to sacrifice more than others in order to attain reform".

-Ferdinand Marcos.

BY JAYANTHA SOMASUNDARAM

Wealth and plenty amidst poverty is not merely the abstractian of prophets of the apocalypse. It is the constant nightmare of market economies, where the scramble for profit gives rise to mass production, mass production to mechanisation, automation to redundancy of labour, and unemployment to accumulating inventories. The only way out of this dilemma is to destroy production units and capacity. This is why Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany registered marked growth in the post war years, because their industries were razed to the ground by 1945. Nazi Germany is a good example where a country revived economically from the depression of the thirties because the armament industry bouyed up the economy. During the years of the Vietnam war, the United States economy also benifited from armament production and war. Since then, however, the practice of arming megalomaniacs in the Gulf and dictators in Latin America has not provided adequate business for US industry.

Across the Atlantic the situation is much the same. Sharp cuts in production have already been registered in major industries like British steel and Japanese ship building. In the meantime governments are increasing taxes in order to subsidise flagging industry. This in turn cuts profit throttles demand and strangles the market further. The governments in countries like Italy borrow so heavily, to provide subsidies, that the interest rate for credit is sent spiralling. Even in Japan, public expenditure is now a quarter of its GNP and its budget deficit is equal to the combined deficits of the US, FRG, UK and France.

The era when there was recourse to Keynesian remedies has ended, the movement towards Economic Darwinism has begun. In both the metropolitan countries and the periphery of capitalism social democratic parties have been replaced in power by conservatives But the extreme measures that are applicable in, say, Chile, through naked authoritarianism, could not be carried out even after strong governments and militant rhetoric had arrived. In the UK, even Margaret Thatcher cannot permit British Steel and British Leyland to fold up.

If the past could be described as crisis ridden, the future can earn the term disastrous. The economic crisis that hit the market economies in 1973 came at the end of a long period of prosperity and high levels of investment. These factors cushioned the worst effects of the 73/75 recession. Since then, however, there has been little renewal of capital in North America and Western Europe. The traditional industrial powers are therefore in for a good economic drubbing by Japan.

One of the sore issues in US Japanese relations today is the threat to the US motor car industry by Japanese competitors. Quotas are being called for by US producers. Meanwhile, Ronald Reagan has been forced to resume grain sales to the Soviet Union to rescue US farmers. And garment manufacturers from Hong Kong have come to Katunayake to beat the quotas imposed by the US and the European community.

In anticipation of all of this, OECD countries, the industrialised market economies of the West, are cutting imports, boosting exports and pruning public expenditure. But the crisis is going to be world wide, and the capacity of the less developed countries, to indulge in imports is going to be severely curtailed. What is more, even the Eastern European countries, alarmed with their growing debts to Western banks, are also going to apply the same kind of remedies as their Western competitors.

The example or warning of Poland is certainly going to influence the policies of the planned economies. Poland is using 70 per cent of her export earnings to service her foreign debts. The consequent fall in living standards has created the conditions for a political revolution.

The developing market economies are also likely to throttle imports and borrowing. Whereas in 1973 the LDC's debt was $ 73 billion today it is estimated at $ 440 billion. Of this amount, a third is the burden of five countries, Brazil, - Mexico, South Korea, Argentina and the Philippines.

The thirty big banks which finance international credti are anxious to lend and will compete to do so. But their credit will in all probability be used for debt servicing and not to expand demand.

The predicament of countries like Sri Lanka is mind boggling. The OECD are rigorously employing quotas and import controls against our exports - whilst preaching about the virtues of free trade. Our ability to save ourselves, or contribute to the salvation of the rest of the capitalist world is thus non existent.

The increasing inability to compete has in fact led the OECD countries to move their industries to countries on the periphery in order to capitalise on cheap labour. These countries are called the Newly Industrialising Countries and include South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Mexico and Brazil. However, they still account for only one percent of the OECD market for manufactured goods - but their share is bound to increase and their threat to Japanese industry is real. Synthetic fibre from Korea and Taiwan are now 30 percent cheaper than Japanese.

To maximize on cheap labour, textile, glove and shoe manufacturers in the NIC subcontract to homes. Even in Sri Lanka, Bata uses dirt cheap labour in households to manufacture shoes. In India, Bata is giving up centralised manufacture altogether in favour of cottage industry. This phenomenon is not without parallel in the West itself. In Italy textiles, steel and small scale engineering are now being subcontracted to homes, involving upto seven million jobs.

On an international scale British T.V. is assembled with Taiwanese components and Swiss watches are now being manufactured in Taiwan.

The ASEAN countries are however the model for this new international division of labour. And with Sri Lanka applying for membership a closer look at ASEAN is worthwhile.

The Association of South East Asian Nations which was a coming together of Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, the Philippines and Indonesia in 1967 is in effect the illegitimate child of SEATO which had to be abandoned with the US defeat in Vietnam. Thailand and the Philippines were members of the South East Asia Treaty Organisation - Thailand providing the main airbases from which United States Air Force bombers carried out a genocidal war in Vietnam. The United States Navy Seventh Fleet of the West Pacific operated out of Subic Bay in the Philippines. Australia, a lynch pin of SEATO, is now increasing its military involvement with ASEAN countries. Australia is training the Philippines Air Force. Royal Thai Air Force personnel are undergoing training in Victoria, New South

(Contd. on page 9)

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Enlisting Religion & Archaeology For Racism

Destruction of Hindu temples and idols used to be an uncommon feature except during times of communal strife. Now it is becoming more frequent and deliberate. Defacing and disturbing archaeological sites, planting evidence of Sinhala Buddhist settlement in Tamil areas are becoming increasingly common now.

The recent chain of events of such nature started with the sudden and mysterious appearance of a new Buddha statue at the Vavuniya Kachcheri junction at the site of an Amman temple. The campaign of the local population foiled the plans of building a temple around it. But the removal of the statue did not take place as demanded by the people. The buck was being passed around amongst government politicians and officials with various removal orders, stay orders and numerous other orders. The final order came from the very top with characteristic shrewdness. The new statue has been now replaced by an ancient statue and the people of Vavuniya have been granted their latest facility - a museum to foster Buddhism!

The second incident which happened in December last year is alarming to students of history. Archaeologists from the University of Jaffna have spotted three newly, built cement and limestone Buddhist stupas on the archaeological sites at Vediyarasan Kottai, Delft. The stupas have made their appearance without any sign of any archaeological excavation. The Archaeological Department which is supposed to have constructed the half built stupas seem to have worked on the stupas at periodic intervals - in order not to arouse the suspicions of the local population.

UNIFORMED MEN AT TEMPLE

The third incident at Kanchirankuda in the Thirukovil A. G. A. District in Batticaloa seems the most sinister. A group of uniformed men had made their appearance in the village in December last year and had intimidated and had forcibly got the roof of the Murugan Temple removed by the villagers who patronise the temple. They had left the village threatening to bring some other statues to replace the Murugan Statue. Groups a of poor Tamil peasants being attacked and uprooted by the armed forces has become common in the Eastern Province. It culminated in the violent incident of Navagirikulam in July-August last year Religion, is often the weapon used against these unknowing villagers.

One can cite examples such as the Digavapi project where direct State action and State policy in the name of Buddhism is directed towards ousting hundreds of Muslim peasant families from the area.

Lord Buddha has for the Tamils also been a symbol of serenity and peace. The Hindu tradition has imbibed much good from Buddhism. But unfortunately, Lord Buddha is increasingly becoming a symbol of oppression and violence against Tamils. His name is vainly used for much deceitful and hypocritical political ends. (Saturday Review)

THE ASIAN PERSPECTIVE

(Contd. from page 8)

Wales and Queensland. A few weeks back Royal Australian Navy warships which had served 'honourably' in Victnam called at Sri Lanka.

Clearer than their complicity in Indo China, more degrading than their subservience to US interests, is their single-minded authoritarianism. None of the ASEAN countries have anything that can be remotely called a legal political opposition. Not one of them has a liberal press. Their opposition politicians and unobliging journalists are locked up in jail.

The ASEAN countries are precious to the West because of their rich supply of natural resources. These include fuels, forests, plantation crops, oil, gas, nickel, copper, tin and bauxite.

Equally attractive is their cheap, disciplined labour and low levels of pollution control. The ASEAN countries are increasingly being meshed into the world capitalist economy. There has been a dramatic growth in the extractive industries. So also in the area of agribusiness: rice estates, ranching, sugar, pineapples and bananas.

"The upper classes in all five countries have grown in size and wealth since the mid-sixties as in the social distance by which they are set apart from the rest of their respective societies," says a study conducted by the Asian Bureau, Australia. "There has been an emergence of new business groups associated with transnational corporations and the expansion of the state apparatus.

"Foreign business activity has been associated with a proliferation of cultural links between local upper class and their counterparts in the major centres of the advanced capitalist world. Cosmopolitanism is a feature of this class, as revealed by their styles of housing, dress and leisure pursuits."

"Luxury hotels, Golf courses, tennis courts, night clubs, casinos, discos, massage parlours, swimming pools are not only for foreign tourists but also for upper class local residents.

In spite of the fact that the people in the ASEAN countries are living under dictatorial regimes - military ones in the case of Thailand and Indonesia - or perhaps because of that, there is violent opposition. The most dramatic is the uprising of the people of East Timor. Equally violent is the rebellion in Northeast Thailand, the guerillas on the Thai-Malaysian borders and the opposition of the hill tribes in Northern Luzon, Samar and Mindanou-Sulu in the Philippines.

The only way one can oppose or contradict the regimes in ASEAN countries is by resort to arms. In the Philippines large sections of the Catholic Church have identified themselves with the growing opposition. In Malaysia racialist Government which is the ideal of Cyril Mathew - blatantly discriminates against the Chinese, Indians and even the Indian Muslims. Thailand is a comic opera of revolving-door coups, reminiscent of South Vietnam in its terminal stages. Singapore is the classic example of a mute society.

ASEAN countries are characterised by spy-ridden university lecture halls, heavily - censored newspaper offices, intimidated courtrooms. Parliaments, the judiciary and the media are suppets. Indonesia and Thailand are military dictatorships. In the Philippines a one-man dictatorship exists. Malaysia and Singapore have one party dictatorships.

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RAMANUJAN, THE MATHEMATICIAN

By
Professor C.J. Eliezer

Barrister-at-Law [London], Doctor of Philosophy [Cambridge], Doctor of Science [London]; Professor of Mathematics, La Trobe University, Australia; Former Professor of Mathematics, University of Ceylon - 1949 to 1959; Professor of Mathematics, University of Malaysia - 1959 to 1968.

The history of mathematics bears the imprint of many personalities of genius - of intellectual giants with unusual abilities and uncanny insights. Archimedes and Pythagoras, Newton and Lagrange, Descartes and Gauss, Euler and Einstein - were among the greatest of men. Intellectual passion and romance, discoveries and great moments of history have been associated with their names.

Among the exciting and unusual figures among the great creators of mathematics is SRINIVASA RAMANUJAN, whose short life (1887 - 1920) had the stamp of genius and greatness, though perhaps mingled with sadness and tragedy.

As one reflects on the life of Ramanujan, a thought that comes to mind is the possibility that his capabilities might well have gone unrecognised, and opportunity may not have come his way for the growth and development of his talents. The help and encouragement of various men of influence, who were themselves lovers of mathematics, played an important role in the early days of frustration and uncertainty.

One such person was Diwan Bahadur Ramachandra Rao, Collector at Nellore, who recalled in the following words his first interview with Ramanujan in 1910, when the latter was a twenty-two year old youngster. (He had by then left College, having failed in English in the First in Arts examination, lost his scholarship and was without a job.)

"A nephew of mine perfectly innocent of mathematical knowledge said to me: 'Uncle, I have a visitor who talks of mathematics; I do not understand him; can you see if there is anything in his talk? And in the plenitude of my mathematical wisdom, I condescended to permit Ramanujan to walk into my presence. A short figure .... with one conspicuous feature - shining eyes - walked in with a frayed notebook under his arm. He was miserably poor. He had run away from Kumbakonam to get leisure in Madras to pursue his studies....

He opened his book and began to explain some of his discoveries. I saw quite at once that there was something out of the way; but my knowledge did not permit me to judge whether he talked sense or nonsense. Suspending judgment, I asked him to come over again, and he did. And then he had gauged my ignorance and showed me some of his simpler results. These transcended existing books and I had no doubt that he was a remarkable man. Then, step by step, he led me to elliptic integrals and hypergeometric series and at last to his theory of divergent series not yet announced to the world converted me."

The reaction of Mr. Rao was typical of the admiration which lovers of mathematics gradually came to feel for Ramanujan's abilities, and aroused their desire to make it possible for him to continue with his mathematical pursuits. It would seem that there was in his environment an intellectual climate of appreciation of mathematical science, and a spontaneous affection and admiration for those who showed special mathematical talents. Such an emphasis reflects a traditional feature of Tamil society. Among the first couplets of poetry which generations of children lisped were from the beloved and wise Avvaiyar:

எண்ணும் எழுத்தும்
கண்ணெனத் தகும்

And earlier in the second century Thiruvalluvar had said in Kural 392

எண் என்ப எண்ணோ டெழுத்து என்ப
இவ்விரண்டும் கண் என்ப வாழும்
உயிர்க்கு,

which may be rendered in English: Numbers and letters - these are the twin eyes of the mind.

The invention of the number zero in India, and the coming into use there of the present number system had accelerated the progress of number studies. And, over the centuries, a love for mathematics, expressed in songs and poems and mathematical riddles (such as those which Thennali Raman had enunciated), had been nurtured in that society.

The phenomenon of Ramanujan gradually came to the notice also of certain British civil servants in India. These were mostly university men with a background of liberal education. Their support and enthusiasm were to play an important role on Ramanujan's future. While Ramanujan was working as an office clerk in the Madras Port Authority, his mathematical talents were brought to the attention of the Chairman of this body. This Chairman took advantage of the visit of Madras of Dr. T.G. Walker, F.R.S., Director-General of Observatories, Simla, to show him some of Ramanujan's mathematical works. The result was a persuasive letter from Dr. Walker to the University of Madras, in the following terms:

"....the character of the work that I saw impressed me as comparable in originality with that of a mathematical fellow in a Cambridge college ... the university would be justified in enabling S. Ramanujan for a few years to spend the whole of his time on Mathematics, without anxiety as to his livelihood."

Dr. Walker, as a former fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, had known the value of the system of research fellowships at Cambridge, where persons of promise are enabled to stay on at the university and devote their full time to research, without other duties being required from them. The existence of such fellowships is today a valuable feature in universities which place emphasis on research and new learning.

The University of Madras went out of their normal provisions and awarded a special scholarship to Ramanujan, thus enabling him to give up his clerkship and devote his full time to mathematics.

In the meantime, at the suggestion of a former teacher, Ramanujan began a correspondence with G.H. Hardy at Trinity College, Cambridge. Hardy later became for many decades the acknowledged leader of British mathematics. In his first letter Ramanujan wrote:

"...I had no university education, but I have undergone the ordinary school course. After leaving school I have been employing the spare time at my disposal to work at Mathematics... Very recently I came across a tract published by you styled "Orders of Infinity", in page 36 of which I find a statement that no definite expression has been as yet found for the number of prime numbers less than any given number. I have found an expression which very nearly approximates to the real result..... I would request you to go through the enclosed papers....."

The papers enclosed contained enunciations of a hundred or more mathematical theorems. Hardy was amazed. He replied promptly in friendly and encouraging

(Contd. On. P. 11)

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(Contd. From P. 11)

terms. He further urged that Ramanujan should enter Cambridge, where with contact with many mathematicians his talents would find ample scope for creative mathematics. At first, Ramanujan would not entertain the idea of going abroad, owing to his rigid observances of caste. Early in 1914 when a fellow of Trinity, E.H. Neville, was invited by the University of Madras to visit and deliver some mathematics courses, he was given by Hardy the task of persuading Ramanujan to go to Cambridge. This Neville did successfully. Neville further proposed to the University of Madras to award Ramanujan a scholarship to proceed to Cambridge:

"The discovery of the genius of S. Ramanujan of Madras promises to be the most interesting event of our time in the mathematical world... I see no reason to doubt that Ramanujan himself will respond fully to the stimulus which contact with western mathematicians of the highest class will afford him. In that case his name will become one of the greatest in the history of mathematics and the University and the City of Madras will be proud to have assisted in his passage from obscurity to fame."

The university responded, and Ramanujan reached Cambridge in April 1914 in the company of Neville. There Hardy and Littlewood introduced him to new branches of mathematics, helped him to present his work in the form of papers suitable for publication in mathematical journals, and under their guidance his mathematical talents developed rapidly.

Hardy has commented on the difficulties of creating in Ramanujan the attitude of rigour characteristic of modern mathematics:

"The limitations of his knowledge were as startling as its profundity. Here was a man who could work out modular equations, and theorems of complex multiplication to orders unheard of, whose mastery of continued fractions was, on the formal side at any rate, beyond that of any mathematician in the world, who had found for himself the functional equation of the Zeta-function, and the dominant terms in many of the most famous problems in the analytic theory of numbers; and he had never heard of a doubly periodic function or of Cauchy's theorem, and had indeed but the vaguest idea of what a function of a complex variable was. His ideas of what constituted a mathematical proof were of the most shadowy description. All his results, new or old, right or wrong, had been arrived at by a process of mingled argument, intuition and induction.... So I had to try to teach him, and in a measure I succeeded, though obviously I learnt from him much more than he learnt from me.... His flow of original ideas showed no symptom of abatement."

Again:

"Of his extraordinary gifts there can be no question; in some ways he is the most remarkable mathematician I have ever known."

Ramanujan's uncanny intuition was his special asset. Many of his results were so complicated that expert mathematicians had to put in great effort to provide acceptable proofs, and there still remain unproved results. Even in his younger days, on rising from bed, he would frequently jot down in his famous note book some formula which he would proceed to verify, though he was unable to supply a proof. He would say that the goddess of Namakkal had inspired him with the formula during his sleep.

It would be of interest to speculate if his intuition would have remained as fertile, if he had gone through a proper mathematical discipline of training. It could well be that systematic education sometimes tends to limit the intuitive capacities of children. In these days of mass education, where children are taught in large groups, the need for teachers to provide for the special talents of each child, especially in the case of mathematical talents, is important and worth greater attention than is given at present.

One of the happy features of Ramanujan's life at Cambridge had been the affection and regard in which Hardy, Littlewood, Neville and other mathematicians held him, reminding us of the international fraternity of mathematicians, who irrespective of origins of race, background and upbringing, are held together by a strong emotional basic loyalty which transcends the many differences.

Professor D.E. Daykin, my colleague in the University of Malaya, tells me that a few years ago he attended a lecture by Prof. Neville on the life of Ramanujan. During most of the lecture, tears streamed down the cheeks of Prof. Neville. Among other incidents, Neville referred to the occasion when Ramanujan had borrowed some rare book from him, and accidentally some water had poured on the book. Ramanujan was most unhappy, had written to several dealers in rare books, and succeeded in obtaining another copy; and with much apology he came to Neville and gave him the two copies, with an explanation of what had happened.

Ramanujan was in England for a little less than five years. Parts of the last two years were, alas, in sanatoria, to arrest a tubercular tendency. There were periods of improvement, convalescence and relapse. But the mathematical activity continued. His work began to receive public recognition. He was elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society, and to a fellowship at Trinity College.

On one occasion when Hardy visited him in hospital, the conversation casually went to the subject of the number of the taxicab in which he had travelled. Hardy remarked that the number was $1729 = 7 \times 13 \times 19$ and thought that it was a dull number. Ramanujan however said that it was a very interesting number, being the smallest number expressible as a sum of two cubes in two different ways. So intimate was Ramanujan's knowledge about the different numbers. Littlewood once remarked that to Ramanujan every integer was a personal friend.

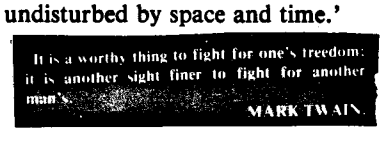
The climate of England was not helping recovery, and his colleagues sadly planned his return to India. It was anticipated that he would fully recover in India's climate. The University of Madras made various financial provisions, and was contemplating the creation of a special Professorship for him. He was disturbed that his illness was preventing him from doing enough mathematics to justify his scholarship. He wrote to the University of Madras:

"I feel, however, that after my return to India, which I expect to happen as soon as arrangements can be made, the total amount of money to which I shall be entitled will be much more than I shall require. I should hope that, after my expenses in England have been paid, £50 a year will be paid to my parents and that the surplus, after my necessary expenses are met, should be used for some educational purpose, such in particular as the reduction of school-fees for poor boys and orphans and provision of books in school..... .

I feel very sorry that, as I have not been well, I have not been able to do much mathematics during the last two years as before. I hope that I shall soon be able to do more and will certainly do my best to deserve the help that has been given me."

Ramanujan returned to Madras in April 1919. Despite best medical attention and the loving care of friends, his health did not improve. He died in April 19 1920 at the age of 33, remaining mathematically active right to the end, with a serenity of mind

'that held acquaintance with the stars undisturbed by space and time.'



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OBITUARY

Percy Thevathasan

The death occured on 25 February at his home in Warley, West Midlands of Percy Thevathasan, veteran schoolmaster and man of many endearing qualities.

Percy had his early education at St. John's College, Jaffna and Kingswood College, Kandy in Sri Lanka. He read Western Classics at the old Ceylon University College, Colombo where he also captained the Boxing team. He taught for many years at Royal College, Colombo, later in Malaysia and Brunei, and for the past 14 years here in England.

He was involved in various projects to help Tamil youth through the Jaffna Y.M.C.A. and the Christa Seva Ashram in Maruthanamadham.

He leaves behind his wife Karunadevi (nee' Sanders) and three children - Suren, Ilangini (Mrs. C. Thambirajah) and Kanthini.

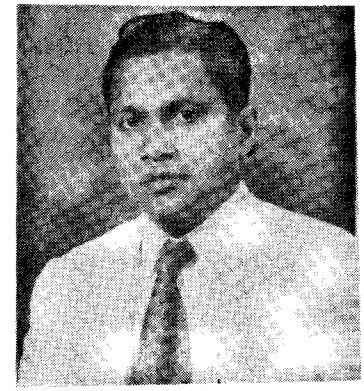
Navaratna Thasan

(March 1921 - January 1982)

Mr. Thasan, the eldest son of Mr. K.S. Saravanamuttu, retired Principal of Drieberg College, Chavakachcheri and of the late Mrs. Saravanamuttu ('Kirubi Acca') studied at Drieberg College and Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai prior to entry into the University of Ceylon in 1941. His outgoing nature and warm personality made him many life-long friends while staying in the Brodie Hall of residence in Colombo.

He terminated his University studies to enlist in the Ceylon Army, and, subsequently was appointed Deputy Food Controller in 1946 in the Ceylon Civil Service. An active member of the Kandy Garden Club, he played Billiards, Chess and Bridge and his many tennis trophies serve as a testament to his love for, and abilities in that sport. Having obtained a B. A. Honours Degree of the University of London by private study while in Kandy, he left the Island in January 1957.

Although his intention was to begin a new career in Accountancy in the U.K. The call of his family vocation, teaching, proved to be irresistable and he succumbd by joining the William Murdoch School in Birmingham. He was appointed a Lecturer at Dunstable College of Further Education in 1962 and left for a similar position in Westminister College in London in 1970. During his period of service at Westminster College, the respect and admiration of his colleagues and students resulted in his promotion to the post of Senior Lecturer and his election as a member of the College Academic Board and of the College Board of Governors. He also served as Secretary of the College Branch of the Lecturers Union (NATFHE) and as Treasurer of the Students Union.



Mr. Thasan died on 18th January 1982 while on duty at his college.

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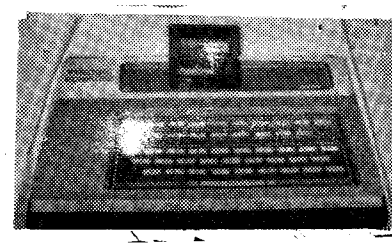

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CAUVERY WATERS DISPUTE ESCALATES

The dispute between the State governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka in respect of the Cauvery waters issue has escalated to such an extent that the Tamil Nadu government would appear to have given up all hopes of any settlement by bilateral talks and would be raising the matter with the Union government.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Mr. M.G. Ramachandran, recalling his recent meeting with Mr. R. Gundu Rao, the Chief Minister of Karnataka, said that though no progress could be made, both had agreed that the effort to find a common ground should not be given up and that they should meet again.

Subsequently, however, the various public statements of Mr. Gundu Rao revealed a change of attitude. It had shattered the hopes of finding an amicable settlement through bilateral talks. Tamil Nadu would have to look to the Centre for resolving this knotty problem. What Tamil Nadu insisted upon was nothing more than full protection for existing riparian rights, said Mr. Ramachandran.

On the other hand, the Karnataka Chief Minister, Mr. Gundu Rao, accused the Tamil Nadu government of shifting its stand on the Cauvery waters dispute, and restated his readiness for a settlement on the basis to internationally accepted principles of sharing river waters. He said that all through Tamil Nadu had been overambitious and did not seem to recognise the existence of upstream States like Karnataka and Kerala who had an equal right to the waters.

The Union government has called a conference to be held on April 3, in an attempt to resolve the dispute between the State governments concerned.

Second Passport Offices For Tamil Nadu

A second Passport Office for Tamil Nadu is under consideration of the Union government.

This was stated recently by Mr. Sahai said that, at port Officer and Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of External Affairs. The location of the office has, however, not been decided.

Mr. Shai said that, at present, the Madras Passport Office issued about 200,000 passports and it was considered that a second office would help the public.

(Contd. From P' 1)

history through a tapestry of architecture, sculpture and paintings, an exposition at the Science Museum on "Science in India," which illustrates in a dramatic and telling manner the continuing role of science over the centuries in Indian life and teh inauguration of an exhibition on Shri Jawaharlal Nehru at Ambika House.

(Contd. From P. 7)

does not warrant such recognition.

The simple style and the choice of language makes easy reading. Many important social issues are brought out through the characters rather effectively. The way in which traditional values and customs have been questioned, would no doubt cause discomfort among Tamil "culture vultures. The author's courage in this respect ought to receive whole hearted support.

INDRANI

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(Contd. From P. 1)

The only Communist MP, Mr. Sarath Muttetuwegama, said that the urgency shown by the government proved that it was panicky. He said, "Terrorism has a cause. It is the last resort of the people. If people cannot live as decent citizens and bear the terrible cost of living, no anti-Terrorism Act can stop the people from revolting".

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SPEAKER CREATES HISTORY

Parliamentary history was created in the Kerala Assembly on February 9, when the Speaker, Mr. A.C. Jose, used his casting vote seven times.

The Speaker used his casting vote six times to defeat Opposition amendments to the Governor's Address and once to get the motion passed by the House.

The voting result on all the seven occasions was the same: 70 each on either side. The Opposition pressed for a division six times and the Ruling Front sought it once.

The House was plunged into laughter, when one MLA, Mr. C.B.C. Warrier (CPI-M) suggested to the Speaker when the third amendment was being put to the vote: Don't you think it is better for you also to stand up when you ask "those against"? When the motion of thanks was put to vote, an opposition member was heard shouting: At least be consistent. You have been using your casting vote "against" all the time. Please do so now too.

SIVAJI BECOMES MP

Sivaji Ganesan, the famous Tamil film actor, has been nominated to the Rajya Sabha, the Second Chamber in the Indian Parliament.

Sivaji Ganesan, aged 54, has acted in more than 200 films. He is a recipient of 'Padma Shri', a much coveted honour for anyone to receive. He was nominated best actor on several occasions, and also won the best actor award at the Afro-Asian film festival. Sivaji Ganesan achieved fame from the first film he acted in, PARASAKTHI, which was scripted by the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and leader of the DMK, M. Karunanithi.

MGR Receives Highest Scout Honour

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, M.G. Ramachandran, was recently presented the "Silver Elephant" award - the highest national award of Bharat Scouts and Guides - at the valedictory function of the President's Scouts and Guides Rally.

Mrs. Lakshmi Mazumdar, National Commissioner for Scouts and Guides, decorated Mr. Ramachandran, the first Chief Minister in India to receive the award, with the insignia of Silver Elephant in recognition of his "most distinguished and exceptional services to the movement."

In a citation presented on the occasion, Mr. S.K.Das, National Secretary, said Mr. Ramachandran had enabled the State unit of the Bharat Scouts and Guides to have a camping site - other State Governments should follow the lead given by Tamil Nadu in the matter of enrolling school children in the movement. It was gratifying to note that Tamil Nadu led in the matter of membership, he said.

Mizo National Front Banned

The Mizo National Front and its allied organisations including the Mizo National Army had been declared illegal by the Government of India under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967.

A spokesman for the Union government said that, in view of the Mizo National Front leader Mr. Laldenga's intransigence, "it is clear that he does not wish to have a peaceful settlement unless untenable demands are met".

"Therefore the government came to the conclusion that no useful purpose would be served by continuing the talks with him, more so when peace negotiations were used as a cover to build the MNF organisation to undermine the lawfully constituted authority in Mizoram", he said.

STOLEN IDOLS FOUND IN TEXAS

Tamil Nadu police have traced four precious idols, valued at Rs. 2 crores, stolen from temples in Thanjavur nearly two years ago. The idols, sold through various agents, were finally located in the U.K. and the U.S. One of them had been bought by a private museum. Efforts are on to bring them back.

Mr. K. Rajasekharan Nair, DIG, CID (crime) told newsmen that they were a tenth century Nataraja idol (see picture and three panchaloha idols of Valli and Deivayanai.

The Nataraja idol, he said was stolen from the Easwaran temples at Thiruvilakkudy, Thanjavur district, in August 1979 by an 11 member gang, which sold it to an agent in Madras. The idol was finally purchased for $ 600,000 (Rs. 54 lakhs) by a private museum in Texas. Its present value is estimated at over Rs. 1 crore.

The Tamil Nadu Government sent Mr Rajasekharan Nair and a DSP. Mr. J. Ramakri shnan of the Crime Branch CID, in December last year to the U.S. to liaise with Interpol in tracing the idol. American police are taking action against some persons. (The State police arrested the members of the gang between December 1980 and January 1981)

Simultaneously, police managed to trace three of the eight panchaloha idols stolen from Nalthunai temple in Punjai village, Thanjavur district, in May 1979. Thieves had broken open the lock and made away with the idols which police traced to a handicraft store in London. Scotland Yard arrested Hitendra Raval and recovered 240 idols and artefacts including three bronze idols of Valli and Deivayanai. The idols were valued at over $1 million.

At the request of Scotland Yard the Tamil Nadu Government arranged to send Muthiah Gurukal, the priest of Nalthuna temple to identify the idols.

A London court is hearing a case against Hitendra Raval and once it is over, the State Government will try to bring back the idols.

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TAMIL TIMES

A DIABOLICAL PLOT

Many saw a sinister plot when the Jaffna Public Library - a repository of the cultural heretage of the Tamil speaking people of Sri Lanka -, leading book shops, a Tamil News Paper establishment, a Hindu Temple etc. were burnt down in June last year by sections of the country's security forces assisted by thugs brought from outside in coachloads.

Although the Sri Lankan government claimed that these acts of arson were committed by mutinous sections of the security forces, the choice of targets and the degree of premeditation involved made independent bodies like the Movement for Inter-Racial Equality and Justice and eminent men of learning to conclude that this was an exercise in cultural genocide.

Events since June 1981 and the continued efforts on the part of certain racist biggots in and out of the government offer irrefutable proof that a deliberate and determined campaign is under way to ensure complete racial domination by the majority Sinhala Buddhist community in the country. As a part of this campaign, they are engaged in the destruction of historical landmarks and other forms of evidence pointing to early settlement of Tamils in Sri Lanka. Under the pretext of exploration and conservation of archeological remains of Buddhist places of worship, they are set on a course of planting artificial evidence in traditional Tamil areas. Illegal settlement of Sinhalese people, attempted conversion of old and disused Hindu Temples into Buddha Vihares and overnight appearance of Buddha Statues where none existed previously in Tamil areas are becoming frequent occurances.

In this context, the role of some government Ministers, particularly that of Mr. Cyril Mathew, if not surprising, is revealing. He is not in charge of archeology, education or religious affairs. He is the Minister of Industries. But he is reported to have mysteriously discovered the existence of over 250 Buddhist shrines in the Northern and Eastern provinces of the country. He has been urging Buddhist Associations to adopt these Buddhist shrines and establish a colony around the sites. His plan is to introduce a Buddhist monk and a Sinhala colony around each site for its proper maintenance!

In the face of this aggressive attempt on the part of racists including some of its Ministers and MPs, what is the government of Mr. J.R. Jayawardene doing to halt this extraordinary fervour displayed in archeological and religious affairs by those whose only motive is to ensure total racial domination by the suppression of the legitimate rights of the Tamil people? It is absolute hypocricy for the Sri Lankan Government to join the International Convention for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, as they did recently, while it does not take any steps to prevent even those within its ranks from pursuing this diabolical course directed against the Tamil speaking people.

THEY SAID IT

* *Sycophancy is not a sign of loyalty. It is an expression of lack of self-respect, self-confidence and more often than not of deviousness.* -Girilal Jain, Times of India.

* *I think as an Indian, I would be gravely offended if the CIA and KGB were not active in India.*
-Pran Chopra in Gentleman.

* *I had talks, not negotiations with Lech Walsea. The government's main aim is to keep him politically isolated. It is as if we had an ammunition depot .... the powder must be kept dry.* -Joseph Closek, Polish Trade Union Minister.

* *No modern President could have been less equipped for political life than Richard Nizon.*
-Dr. Henry Kissinger's Memoirs.

* *In political journalism, one man's percieved bias is another man's honesty of opinion.*
-Peter Jenkins, Guardian.

* *The British constitution reserves all its ultimate safeguards for a non-elected elite.* -Tony Benn, MP.

* *Mr. Norman Tebbit [UK Minister of Employment] had indulged in a bout of loutish, brutal, bullying union bashing of a crudity I have never witnessed. Whatever it did for his ego, it had done no good for industrial relations.* -Eric Varley, during debate on Employment bill.

* *The question of South Africa has been the nigger in the woodpile.* -Ken Turner, Secy, Northants County.

* *The number of nations willing to follow our [USA's] lead without question can be counted on the fingers of both hands.* -Hodding Carter III, Wall Street Journal.

Willow weeds

MANY in the medical profession feel it is anything but cricket for our flannelled fools to willow the leather in South Africa while the Johannesburg coroner decides whether Dr Neil Aggett hanged himself in his cell or was murdered for supporting racial equality.

Others, including right-wing MPs, support our cricketers and 'the enormous benefit and pleasure they bring to all South African sportsmen.'

But it is worth reminding the latter that 14 years ago these very same sporting *Blikkiesdorpers* (bumbling backwoodsmen) caused the cancellation of an English cricket tour because we had included Basil D'Oliveira, the Cape Coloured all-rounder, in our team.

Black South Africans care little for cricket and regard it, along with rugby, as 'baskap' or the white masters' game. A reform of sporting apartheid in the laager could be accelerated internationally if South Africa applied to field a World Cup soccer squad where players, both black and white, were selected strictly on merit.

"HOSPITAL DOCTOR"

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